

REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 15-16, 21-22, 27-30, 36-37, 42-43 and 48-51. Accordingly, claims 13-14, 17-20, 23-26, 31-35, 38-41, 44-47 and 52-54 are currently pending in this patent application. Applicants now address each and every point raised by the Examiner in the above-noted Office action as follows:

I. Claims Rejected Under Section 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 15-22, 31-33, 36-43 and 52-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Applicants have canceled claims 15-16, 21-22, 36-37 and 42-43, thereby obviating the rejection with respect to these claims.

With respect to claims 17-20 and 38-41, the Examiner alleges that the specification does not disclose that the second plate is made of plastic or has depressions or concentric depressions or that the first plate is made of metal. Accordingly, these claims have been amended to overcome this rejection.

With respect to claims 31-33 and 52-54, the Examiner alleges that the original specification does not disclose the housing being essentially can shaped and the thrust bearing being disposed in the bottom of the can, the can shaped housing protruding into the container, or the can shaped housing being

capped by an extrusion die. Applicants respectfully disagree. On page 32, lines 10-12 of the specification it is stated that "this screw 30 is disposed within the interior 308 of the generally cylindrical molded polymeric housing 32." It is generally understood that can shaped means generally cylindrical. In fact, *dictionary.com* defines "can" as "A usually cylindrical metal container."

Although the term "can shaped" is not specifically stated in the specification, it is clearly shown in the figures that the housing is can shaped or generally cylindrical (see, for example, FIG. 2). It is also clearly shown in the figures that the thrust bearing is disposed toward the bottom of the can shaped or generally cylindrical housing; that the can shaped or generally cylindrical housing protrudes into the container; and that the can shaped or generally cylindrical housing is capped by an extrusion die. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 31-33 and 52-54 do not contain new matter and applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Claims Rejected Under Section 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 13-16, 21, 24-37, 42 and 45-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Williams. Claim 13 has been amended to recite "the first plate being snap fit on the auger screw." The alleged first plate of Williams is actually part of the feedscrew. Therefore,

it cannot be snap fit onto the feedscrew. Accordingly, claim 13 as amended, and all claims dependent thereon, distinguish over Williams.

Claim 34 has been amended to recite "the first plate being removably attached to the auger screw." The alleged first plate of Williams is actually part of the feedscrew. Therefore, it is not removably attached to the feedscrew, but is permanently attached to the feedscrew. Accordingly, claim 34 as amended, and all claims dependent thereon, distinguish over Williams.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 102 rejection.

III. Claims Rejected Under Section 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 20, 22, 23, 41, 43 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Williams. Claims 20, 22 and 23 depend from claim 13 and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Claims 41, 43 and 52 depend from claim 34 and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the 103 rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that claims 13-14, 17-20, 23-26, 31-35, 38-41, 44-47 and 52-54 be passed to allowance.

IV. Request for Telephone Conference

If, after considering this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any of the pending claims are not properly allowable, Applicants request that the Examiner please contact their authorized representative identified below by phone prior to issuing any further Office action for the purpose of hopefully resolving any such issue.

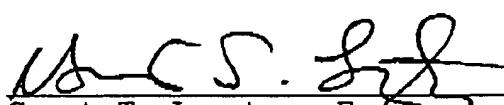
Please charge our Deposit Account No. 10-0440 if any additional fees are necessary for this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Response to 7/12/05 Office Action

-16-

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